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CASES OF ARRESTS, TORTURE AND HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN EAST TIMOR
August - September, 1992

East Timorese returning to Jakarta from East Timor are bringing back reports of young students, and in particular those involved in the November 12 demonstration last year, being taken from their places of residence, and interrogated and tortured by the military authorities.

Most arrests seem to have taken place in the lead up the NAM conference. The government military obviously fearing that a demonstration or other open display of the people's political aspirations would make it into the news in Jakarta, and therefore into the consciousness of visiting NAM delegates.

The following is a transcript of an interview done (17/9/92) with a Timorese student who left Dili on 13/9/92 :

I want to talk about some recent atrocities in East Timor which were begun 2 weeks before the NAM conference in Jakarta. Francisco David Carlos, a student of Dili Polytechnic, Civil Engineering Faculty (Semester 4), was arrested at the Polytechnic boarding house in Dili on 2/9/92 at 9:30 pm by 4 members of the Indonesian military. The military did not have a letter authorising his arrest, nor permission to enter the premises of the boarding house. Francisco had been active in preparing for the November 12, 1991 demonstration.

They took him out, put him in a car, his hands were tied. They took him to Kodim (Districy Military Command office) in a landrover where he was tortured. They punched him in the face until he was unrecognizable and his top and bottom teeth were broken.

I know this because I saw what happened with my own eyes.

The student who wishes to remain anonymous told also of security being tightened and routine checks of identity cards and other documentation taking place daily.